

# **KENTUCKY COMMISSION ON WOMEN**

**Green River Area Development District**

**Green River Area Development District Conference Room, Owensboro, KY**

**Hosted by Green River ADD Office**

**January 18th, 2005**

**Guest Speaker: Ms. Ashley D. Bratcher, Project Manager, KCW**

**Total Number of Participants: 53**

## **EQUITY**

Goals:

1. EQ A.4 – Title 9 -Require that reports and studies by publicly funded agencies separate their data by gender, race, and ethnicity whenever possible. The group feels that accurate reporting would cause accountability.
2. EQ B.6 – Executive Director of KCW be a permanent member of the Governor's Executive Cabinet as well as non-partisan.
3. EQ C.3 - Increase funding for the KCW to include statewide promotion of leadership and mentoring programs.
4. EQ B.3 – Laws and Statutes - Strengthen enforcement of antidiscrimination laws that cover gender, race, ethnicity, age and disability. Must enforce anti-discrimination laws obtain true equity.

## **LEADERSHIP**

Goals:

1. Encourage women to seek political office.
2. Teaching skills to allow women to enter the workforce.
3. Leadership training. Form a GRADD bi-partisan, political caucus to encourage public service.
4. Encourage employers to send women to Leadership KY/Leadership Owensboro. Provide financial assistance and childcare to assists those who cannot afford the program on their own.
5. Increase voter registration and find a way to provide transportation for women to register and vote on election-day.
6. Create a speaker's bureau to promote women's leadership and to educate women on the political candidates.
7. Improve women's self-esteem through mentoring:
  - a. Mothering/parenting
  - b. Young girls

## **EDUCATION**

### **Goals:**

1. Promote improved self-esteem. Help women develop the 40 Developmental Assets through role models/mentors.
2. Child care provided by learning institutions while mothers are in school.
3. Raise public awareness of opportunities available in the area/state. Hold local meetings and develop local task force to study the needs of GRADD women wanting to further their education. Create women's circles in each county to promote and facilitate women getting their education.
4. Raise the level of expectations that women have for their education.
5. Provide funding to encourage women to go back to school.
6. Educate women on family planning/balancing life's challenges while a student.

## **ECONOMIC SUFFICIENCY**

### **Goals:**

1. Mentoring
  - a. Establish a database in each county of individuals/organizations/businesses interested in being mentors
  - b. Call on the aging population to be mentors as they have time and patience.
  - c. Create a resource center in each school for students to find information on having a mentor.
  - d. Allow time spent mentoring as paid work experience.
2. MUST START YOUNG! Promote organizations that focus on girls, ex: Girls Inc., Girl Scouts, etc.
3. Make job training more accessible. Provide PSA's to let women know where you go to get training. Make information user friendly.
4. School systems provide child care to allow mothers to attend classes.
5. Provide child care to employees.
6. Make information on business ownership available.
7. Improved transportation for women who want to work.

### **Barriers:**

1. Childcare
2. Transportation
3. Housing
4. Tax relief
5. Job Training
6. Access
7. Economic Development

## HEALTH AND WELL BEING

### What GRADD is doing well?

- Garnish unemployment wages to pay child so child can get money first.
- Good participation in exercise and nutrition programs for Seniors
- Hospitals offering Non-Smoking Education classes.
- Children's groups for lobbying for non-smoking.
- OASIS does a good job of assisting with domestic violence and with Drug and Alcohol programs.
- KERA family resource centers – effective in intervention.
- National Education on Women's Heart Disease was misdiagnosed.
- Schools and guidance counselors work with girls and health issues.
- Growing support for tobacco tax
- CATCH
- Fitness/Nutrition in schools.
- Contraceptives available in Health Department (available migrants and immigrants)
- Abstinence education awareness

### Goals:

1. WB-B.1 – Develop and fund efforts to help domestic violence survivors find safe employment and child care. Provide support system for single mothers; expand domestic violence coverage to low-income women and immigrants.
2. WB-Funding for access to safe and adequate housing. Car insurance cuts into families housing budget.
3. WB-C.2 – Fund a public awareness campaign promoting healthy lifestyles across a woman's life span. Address the rising number of women who suffer from drug and alcohol addiction.
4. WB-C.3 – Establish a wellness program through schools and community organizations that focuses on the specific needs of girls and young women. Begin with elementary school children and teach them developmental assets. Focus on younger women/girls, special needs groups, specific population, low income and those at risk of high-risk pregnancies.
5. WB-C.4 – Address the health issues of specific populations of women and cut down the cost of medical services, i.e. low-income and those disabilities.
6. WB-E.2 – Develop organization of effective philanthropic women and men to address issues of women's well-being. Create a program that allows individuals to adopt/mentor to a family. Focus on overcoming the complexity of education and jobs and provide safe housing.